

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5 wherein said vibration transmitting anatomical structure is adjacent said operator's ear, and said at least one contact microphone disposed in skin contact adjacent said operator's ear.

3. (Currently Amended) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5 wherein said vibration transmitting anatomical structure is adjacent said operator's larynx, and said at least one contact microphone disposed in skin contact with said operator's throat.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 4~~ An improved vehicle wheel alignment system having a central processing unit for controlling the operation of the vehicle wheel alignment system, the improvement comprising:

a communications interface including at least one contact microphone adapted to receive at least one acoustic signal from a vibration transmitting anatomical structure associated with an operator, said at least one contact microphone is configured to produce a data signal representative of said at least one received acoustic signal for communication to said central processing unit;

wherein said central processing unit is configured to receive said data signal, and to process said data signal to identify at least one discrete spoken command, said central processing unit further configured with at least one software object which

~~wherein said at least one software object is conforms to VoiceXML standards to process said data signal to identify said at least one discrete spoken command; and~~

wherein the central processing unit is configured responsive to said software object to control the operation of at least one component of the wheel alignment system in response to said identified at least one discrete spoken command.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim [[4]] 5 wherein said one or more discrete spoken commands each include a predetermined preface.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim [[4]] 5 wherein each of said one or more discrete spoken commands are phonetically distinct.

8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 8 wherein~~ An improved vehicle wheel alignment system having a central processing unit for controlling the operation of the vehicle wheel alignment system, the improvement comprising:

a communications interface including at least one contact microphone adapted to receive at least one acoustic signal from a vibration transmitting anatomical structure associated with an operator, said at least one contact microphone configured to produce a data signal representative of said at least one received acoustic signal for communication to said central processing unit via a wireless communications link said wireless communications link is conforms conforming to a Bluetooth™ communication protocol; and

wherein said central processing unit is configured to receive said data signal for processing to identify at least one discrete spoken command.

10. (Currently Amended) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim [[1]] 9 wherein said communications interface is further configured to receive an output signal from said central processing unit; and wherein said communications interface further includes at least one speaker configured to convert said received output signal to an audio signal.

11. (Original) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 10 wherein said output signal includes audio data associated with a vehicle wheel alignment procedure.

12. (Currently Amended) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim [[1]] 9 wherein said at least one contact microphone is further configured with an acoustic filter, said acoustic filter configured to filter said acoustic signals.

13. (Original) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 12 wherein said acoustic filter is configured responsive to vocal acoustic signals.

14. (Original) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 12 wherein an actuating switch is associated with said acoustic filter.

15. (Currently Amended) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim [[1]] 9 wherein said communications interface further includes at least one air conductive microphone adapted to receive one or more acoustic signals through an air interface, said at least one air conductive microphone configured to produce a second data signal representative of said one or more acoustic signals for communication to said central processing unit.

16. **(Original)** The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 15 wherein said at least one contact microphone is adapted to acquire low frequency acoustic signals; and wherein said at least one air conductive microphone is adapted to acquire wideband acoustic signals.

17. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 15~~ An improved vehicle wheel alignment system having a central processing unit for controlling the operation of the vehicle wheel alignment system, the improvement comprising:

a communications interface including at least one contact microphone adapted to receive at least one acoustic signal from a vibration transmitting anatomical structure associated with an operator, said at least one contact microphone configured to produce a first data signal representative of said at least one received acoustic signal for communication to said central processing unit, said communications interface further including at least one air conductive microphone adapted to receive at least one acoustic signal through an air interface, said at least one air conductive microphone configured to produce a second data signal representative of said at least one acoustic signal received through said air interface for communication to said central processing unit;

wherein said central processing unit is configured to receive said data signal for processing to identify at least one discrete spoken command, ~~wherein the improvement further comprises said central processing unit configured with at least one software object adapted to process said first data signal to identify the presence of operator speech;~~

wherein said software object is further adapted to process a corresponding portion of said second data signal responsive to ~~[[a]]~~ an identified presence of operator speech to identify one or more spoken commands; and

wherein the central processing unit is further configured responsive to said software object to control the operation of at least one component of the wheel alignment system in response to said identified one or more spoken commands.

18. (Previously Presented) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 17 wherein said at least one software object conforms to VoiceXML standards.

19. (Original) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 17 wherein said one or more discrete spoken commands each include a predetermined preface.

20. (Original) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 17 wherein each of said one or more discrete spoken commands are phonetically distinct.

21. (Currently Amended) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim ~~[[15]]~~ 17 wherein said communications interface is further configured to communicate at least one of said first and second data signal signals to the central processing unit via a wireless communications link.

22. (Currently Amended) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9 wherein said communications interface is wearable by an operator.

23. (Original) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 22 wherein said communications interface is incorporated within a headset.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 31 wherein said audio processor module is further adapted to utilize said first signal and said second signal to clarify voice data received from an operator.

29. (Previously Presented) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 31 wherein said output data signal is representative of said clarified voice data.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) An improved vehicle wheel alignment system having a central processing unit for controlling the operation of the vehicle wheel alignment system, the improvement comprising:

a communications interface including at least one contact microphone adapted to receive one or more acoustic signals from a vibration transmitting anatomical structure adjacent said operator's larynx, said at least one contact microphone is disposed in skin contact with said operator's throat and is configured to produce a first signal representative of said received acoustic signals;

at least one air conductive microphone adapted to receive one or more acoustic signals through an air interface, said at least one air conductive microphone configured to produce a second signal representative of said received acoustic signals;

an audio processor module configured to receive said first and second signals and to provide an output data signal representative of voice input to said central processing unit.

32. (Previously Presented) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 31 wherein said improvement further comprises the central processing unit configured with at least one software object adapted to process said output data signal to identify one or more discrete spoken commands; and

wherein the central processing unit is configured responsive to said software object to control the operation of at least one component of the wheel alignment system in response to said identified one or more spoken commands.

33. (Previously Presented) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 31 wherein said communications interface is further configured to communicate said output data signal to the central processing unit via a wireless communications link.

34. (Previously Presented) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 31 wherein said communications interface is further configured to receive an output signal from said central processing unit; and wherein said communications interface further includes at least one speaker configured to convert said received output signal to an audio signal.

35. (Original) The improved vehicle wheel alignment system of Claim 34 wherein said output signal includes audio data associated with a vehicle wheel alignment procedure.